CUNY School of Professional Studies

Introduction and Overview

Nasrin Khansari, Ph.D.
Adjunct Professor, School of Professional Studies
The City University of New York

The Structure of a Final Project

- Abstract
- Introduction
- Literature Review
- Research Methodology
- Case Study (if applicable)
- Result
- Reference
- Appendix

Abstract

- Short summary of the research problem and its importance, what you do and what you find

- A person reading your abstract should get a good sense of what problem you addressed and how you addressed it without having to look at the rest of the paper

- What is the general area? What is the exact problem you are addressing?

- Why is it important? (why should I be interested as a reader?)

- What are the objectives of the research? What are your hypotheses?

- How is the paper structured?

Methodology Section

- **Define data collection method**
  - Accurate representation of the sample population and coverage issue from the target population
- **Description of Data**
  - A complete description of the desired output
- **Data Analysis**
  - Describe the instrumentation
  - Describe the analysis plan
- **Describe the scope and limitations of the methodology**

- **The Results Section**
  - Needs to systematically and clearly articulate the study findings. If the results are unclear, the reviewer must decide whether the analysis of the data was poorly executed or whether the Results section is poorly organized.

- **The Discussion Section**
  - Should state whether their hypotheses were verified or proven untrue or, if no hypotheses were given, whether their research questions were answered. The authors should also comment on their results in light of previous studies and explain what differences (if any) exist between their findings and those reported by others and attempt to provide an explanation for the discrepancies.

- **The Figures and Graphs**
  - Should illustrate the important features of the methods and results.
  - Should allow the reader to understand the figure or graph without having to refer back to the text of the manuscript.
  - Common mistakes made by inexperienced authors are failing to include figures that best depict their findings, writing unclear figure legends, and making poor use of arrows.

- **Tables**
  - Should summarize the data, make the data more easily understandable, and point out important comparisons.
  - Description of the data in the text, if possible, is preferable to the use of a space-consuming table.

Conclusion and Summary

- Recap briefly what you do in the paper
- Evaluate the effectiveness of your research and provide recommendations (if applicable)
- Make sure that all of the questions raised in the introduction and the literature review have been addressed
- Compare the final results against the original aims and objectives
- Identify any shortcomings and future research

- The final term presentations will be 15 min
  - Introduction
  - Methodology
    - Result
    - Discussion
  - Conclusion
    - Future Work